

Message from Supervisor McKay

After Snowmageddon last February, I was hoping for a warm and dry 2011. That's not looking promising since our first snow arrived on December 16, well before the official start of winter. So—what do you do when you look out the window at streets that have disappeared under a blanket of white?

In Fairfax County, snow removal is almost always the responsibility of VDOT (the state) or private property owners—not Fairfax County. Roads in the state system are maintained by VDOT. Private streets, often in town house communities, are the responsibility of those communities. If you don't know if a road is state or privately owned, please give us a call and we will check for you. Please note that snow removal on public sidewalks is the responsibility of the individual property owner. Please be a good citizen and shovel your walk and help out your neighbors who may be elderly or in poor health and unable to clear theirs.

You can reach VDOT directly to report streets needing plowing or sanding by calling 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) or by email at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. (1-800-367-76243 replaces the 703-383-VDOT number you may have called in the past. This is also the number to call to report potholes or other road problems.)

If you'd rather not call VDOT, my office can always contact VDOT on your behalf. If our office is closed, you can leave a message on our answering machine (703-971-6262) or send an email to Leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov. In case of snow or other inclement weather, we monitor phones and email around the clock.

After last year's extraordinary back-to-back February storms Fairfax County held a snow summit with VDOT to analyze the snow removal problems and identify improvements. As a result of this summit, VDOT made a number of changes to its snow removal operations. You can find more information about VDOT's snow removal operations, including the improvements they've made after last year's historic storms and their road clearing priorities, on my website at http://fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/pdf/snow_fact_sheet_2010.pdf